



Testimony of Runbeck Election Services
Before the Government Administration and Elections Committee
H.J. No. 58, Resolution Proposing a State Constitutional Amendment to Allow No-Excuse
Absentee Voting
Monday, February 22, 2021

Senator Flexer, Representative Fox, Senator Sampson, Representative Mastrofrancesco, and distinguished members of the Government Administration and Elections Committee.

My name is Jeff Ellington, and I am President and Chief Executive Officer of Runbeck Election Services. Runbeck has been supporting elections in the United States since 1972 and I, personally, have been in the election industry for eighteen (18) years.

Runbeck's core competency is election technology. We provide secure voter registration systems, inbound mail processing and software solutions. We also apply our technology for the accuracy and security of absentee or vote by mail voting. During the 2020 year, we serviced our election partners by producing 80 million ballots for all forms of voting, early voting, vote centers, election day voting, as well as fulfilling 30 million absentee mail packets.

We support high volume absentee applications and vote by mail elections in the states of Washington, California, Arizona, Utah, Colorado, Maryland, Georgia, and many others. Our total footprint across the country is 22 states and the District of Columbia. Our tag line is "America's Election Partner" as we pride ourselves in establishing these partnerships with our peers on the government side.

As you know, there are many components to the absentee process for accuracy, transparency, chain of custody and security. Elections has been deemed part of the critical infrastructure of this county and we take that seriously. We are Corporate Affiliates of the National Association of Secretaries of State. We are members of the Sub Sector Coordinating Council as part of the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency under and DHS. We are also members of the Election Infrastructure Information Sharing Analysis Center seated at the Center for Internet Security.

I applaud your methodical cadence to such an endeavor. If this state chooses to pursue absentee voting at a larger scale this thoughtful approach will reduce your risk and prove to be successful. Myself and my colleagues at Runbeck will strive to be a trusted resource for this body.

I am happy to answer any questions.



Additional content (not to be read in the opening statement)

The vote by mail process has many layers of security built into it. In the states that have matured their vote by mail process over the years it is not only technology that helps the security, but it is the combination of people, process and procedures working together.

The data is important from the respective voter registration systems as it represents the list of voters that will receive an absentee mail packet. In our scenario, that data is encrypted as it is sent to our facility. In Runbeck's process, the mail packets are assembled to strict standards incorporating 30 points of quality. Additionally, the chain of custody must be maintained from our mailing facility to the presentation of the mail at general mail facility of the USPS.

Once the mail packets are in the custody of the USPS they are ultimately delivered to the voters.

As the mail packets are returned to the respective election offices an important process starts again. As examples from some states, the mail packets in Washington, Oregon, California, Arizona, and Colorado go through the signature check process to confirm the voter has correctly signed the affidavit and validate their signature before their ballot can be tabulated.